

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) Apparatus comprising:
first and second members movable one relative to the other;
an element mounted in one of said members which initiates an action in the apparatus;
a detector mounted in the other of said members which responds to the proximity of and detects the intensity of interaction with said element;
an inhibitor mounted in one of said members which selectively inhibits the intensity of interaction between said element and said detector in response to said element being moved into the proximity of the detector; and
a processor driving the inhibitor based on an output of the detector and configured to determine whether the first member is in physical proximity to the second member based on said output.
2. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said element is free of any necessity of application of an external source of power.
3. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said detector responds to one of an electromagnetic wave, an electric field, a magnetic field, corpuscular radiation, and an acoustic wave.
4. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said element is a magnet, said detector is a Hall effect switch responsive to imposition of a magnetic field, and said inhibitor is a coil generating a magnetic field opposing the field of said magnet.

5. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said element is a light source, said detector is a photoelectric device, and said inhibitor is a light shield.

6. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein one of said members is the lid of a portable computer system having a display therein and the other of said members is the body of a portable computer system having a keyboard therein.

7. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said inhibitor is responsive to a coded driving signal and further wherein said inhibitor, said element and said detector cooperate in determining the physical proximity of said members one relative to the other by detection of the coded driving signal.

8. (Previously presented) Apparatus comprising:
a portable computer system body having a keyboard therein;
a portable computer system lid having a display therein;
a coupling joining said body and said lid together for movement thereof one relative to the other between open and closed positions; and

a proximity detection subsystem which determines whether said body and said lid are in the closed position, said subsystem comprising:

an element mounted in one of said body and said lid which initiates an action in the apparatus;

a detector mounted in the other of said body and said lid which responds to the proximity of and detects the intensity of interaction with said element;

an inhibitor mounted in said one of said body and said lid which selectively inhibits the intensity of interaction between said element and said detector in response to the element being moved into the proximity of the detector; and

a processor driving the inhibitor based on an output of the detector and configured to determine whether the lid and body are in the closed position based on said output.

9. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 8 wherein said element is a magnet, said detector is a Hall effect switch responsive to imposition of a magnetic field, and said inhibitor is a coil generating a magnetic field opposing the field of said magnet and further comprising a microprocessor operatively connected to control excitation of said coil.

10. (Previously presented) A method comprising:
detecting reception of a signal interaction of two members coupled for movement one relative to the other normally indicative of initiation of a system operation;
selectively inhibiting reception of the signal interaction in response to the detected reception; and
detecting a physical proximity of the two members and determining the appropriateness of initiating the system operation from close proximity of the members.

11. (Previously presented) A method comprising:
monitoring an output of a detector mounted in one of two members coupled for movement one relative to the other based on signal interaction of an element in the other member with the detector;
detecting an output normally indicative of initiation of a system operation;
selectively inhibiting the signal interaction of the element with the detector in response to detecting the signal interaction; and
detecting a physical proximity of the members and determining the appropriateness of initiating the system operation from close proximity of the members.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 11 wherein the selective inhibition of response occurs in response to detection that the members are withdrawn one from the other.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 11 wherein selective inhibition of response is discontinued in response to detection that the members are in close proximity one to the other.

14. (Currently amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium and code stored on the medium which is effective when executing in a computer system to cause the system to perform ~~at least one of~~ the steps of claim 10.

15. (Currently amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium and code stored on the medium which is effective when executing in a computer system to cause the system to perform ~~at least one of~~ the steps of claim 11.

16. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the element is a magnet and further including a noise magnetic field filter that filters external magnetic noise, thereby mitigating interaction between the external magnetic noise and the detector when the first and second members are in close proximity to each other.

17. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the detector responds to corpuscular radiation.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10 further including filtering noise that mimics the signal when the members are in a first position, with respect to each other, where the signal is not detected.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 further including preventing detection of the output.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the inhibitor is activated by a power supply external to the inhibitor.